Public Works (1908) Department.

G.O., No. 137—9

DATED 23· 3· **1908**

N. P.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Spring channel running along the north bank of the bed of the Vaigai river

Directing with remarks, that the ——— should not be closed but should be kept open as a supply channel to the Sellur tank.

[P. W. 9. 3,000—8-7-07.]

Indexed

23/3

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

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IRRIGATION.

Government of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Read. —} 1908. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 137 I., 23rd March 1908.

Spring channel running along the north bank of the bed of the Vaigai river

Directing, with remarks, that the — should not be closed but should be kept open as a supply channel to the Sellur tank.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Irrigation.

READ—the following papers :—

I

G.O., No. 2283 M., dated 11th November 1907.

ABSTRACT.—Approving, with remarks, the proposal submitted by the Sanitary Engineer for the construction at an estimated cost of Rs. 9,610 of an experimental infiltration gallery on the downstream side of the existing filter-beds of the Madura water-supply and stating that further orders will issue in the Public Works Department.

II

Memorandum No. 4302, dated 4th November 1907.

The Chief Engineer for Irrigation has the honour to inform the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, that it is proposed by Government to construct a new experimental infiltration gallery on the downstream side of the existing filter-beds of the Vaigai river at a cost of Rs. 9,610 in order to augment the water-supply to the town of Madura. The gallery is proposed to be constructed about the middle of the river in front of the pumping station and it will run at right angles to the stream. In recommending the construction of the work, the Sanitary Commissioner makes the following suggestions :—

"Along the north bank of the river a channel has been cut presumably for "irrigation purposes. This channel should be closed as it tends to scour and weaken "the river bank. The banks of the river should be revetted at the sides where the "scour is weakening and eroding the bund or if this is too expensive, they should be "protected by rush work as is done in Trichinopoly."

2. The Superintending Engineer is requested to furnish this office with his remarks in regard to the above suggestions from an irrigation point of view.

H. E. CLERK,
Ag. Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

To the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.

III

Letter—from J. H. MEDLICOTT, Esq., Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.
To—the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
Dated—Trichinopoly, the 20th January 1908.
No.—29-C.E.

With reference to your Memorandum No. 4302, dated 4th November 1907, and G.O., No. 545, dated 18th December 1907, I have the honour to forward herewith copies of the correspondence between the Executive Engineer, Madura division, and myself. I agree that there is no necessity to block this channel, provided the infiltration area is kept free from contamination.

ENCLOSURES.

Letter—from A. R. DECHAZAL, Esq., Executive Engineer, Madura Division.
To—the Collector of Madura.
Dated—the 22nd November 1907.
No.—2165-M.

I have the honour to return the file of papers sent me with your endorsement No. 2498/Gl. of 1907, dated 26th October 1907. The Madura Municipality have blocked a spring channel from the Vaigai which supplies Sellur tank. The reason for this is that the Sellur people use their channel as a latrine and even use the bed of the Vaigai in front of the water-works as a latrine. This can be prevented by a few prosecutions every few months and by making a watchman responsible that the banks are clean. To-day, I inspected the place and am sorry to say that it is not clean. There is next to consider the rights of Sellur to the river channel. Mr. G. Srinivasa Row, the Chairman of the Municipality, was told by my predecessor that the channel was not wanted and that the Periyár would take care of the Sellur tank. I consider this is a great mistake. It is true that many of the river channels of the Vaigai have been allowed to be silted up; but our experience of the last few years is that the ryots who keep up their channels secure large supplies of water during the hot weather, *e.g.*, Vandiyur behind your bungalow; Thenur who spent Rs. 600 this year in cleaning their channel; Paravai, Samayanallur on the right or south bank. The ryots of Sellur would lose a valuable asset if their river channel is obliterated. I consider that the Tahsildar should pay special attention to getting together the ryots of each village which possesses a river channel so that they may combine and keep these channels in order.

Letter—from A. R. DECHAZAL, Esq., Executive Engineer, Madura Division.
To—the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, Trichinopoly.
Dated—the 22nd November 1907.
No.—814-S.E.

Referring to your No. 4755 of 7th November 1907 on letter No. 4302, dated 4th November 1907, I have the honour to enclose copy of a letter on the subject written to the Collector. I apologise for the length of the letter; it was not written to an Irrigation Engineer and I had to make matters as plain as I could.

Superintending Engineer's Memo. No. 5114, *dated* 30*th November* 1907.

The Executive Engineer is requested to furnish further particulars with reference to the following remarks:—

(1) The spring channel blocked by the Municipality is presumably the channel referred to by the Sanitary Commissioner.

(2) What will be the precise effect from an irrigation point of view of blocking this particular channel? Figures must be given.

(3) It would seem that there is every reason for blocking this channel on sanitary grounds and as the tank can be supplied by the Periyár, the doing away with a single direct supply channel from the river does not seem a serious question from an irrigation point of view, especially if the cleaning of these channels is not carried out regularly.

(4) A sketch map showing the course of the channel between the river and the tank should be submitted. It apparently runs through the heart of the town of Madura.

The quality of the supply is probably extremely valuable on this account, but this should not be allowed to count against sanitary considerations.

The lands occupied by the channel are probably very valuable. If the channel was filled up, the land could be sold at a high price, communications could be improved and other desirable improvements effected.

J. H. MEDLICOTT,
Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.

Letter—from A. R. DECHAZAL, Esq., Executive Engineer, Madura Division.
To—the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, Trichinopoly.
Dated—the 2nd January 1908.
No.—903-S.E.

With reference to your No. 5114, dated 30th November 1907, I have the honour to enclose a sketch showing the supply channel which the Sanitary Commissioner wants to block up and to reply as follows:—

(1) The spring channel blocked up by the Municipality is the one referred to by the Sanitary Commissioner.

(2) The ayacut of the Sellur tank is 186·2 acres. The blocking of this channel by preventing water from being sent to the ayacut of the tank through the spring channel, during the hot weather may prevent a kodai crop from being grown on the ayacut. Sellur tank is at the tail end of a channel and may not get Periyár water until the end of July or not at all as happened in 1906–1907; whereas there was plenty of water flowing in the Vaigai during the hot weather.

(3) I am not a specialist on sanitary questions and may not understand why it is desirable to block this channel; but I believe that if the few inhabitants of the neighbouring hamlet are prevented from using the channel as a latrine, the portion of the filter-beds which it is desired to protect can be kept free from contamination

(4) I enclose a copy of the Collector's Proceedings, D. Dis. No. 3613-Rev. of 1907, dated 30th November 1907, on the subject. The land occupied by the channel is not valuable; on the south of the road it is broken up sandy downs; and on the north it is dry lands until it meets the wet fields. This land would not make good building sites.

Proceedings of the Collector of Madura, dated 30th November 1907.

Read appeal petition presented by the ryots of Sellur praying that the supply channel to Sellur tank from the Vaigai may not be closed.

Read reports of the Deputy Collector, Madura, D. Dis. No. 1807 of 1907, dated 23rd October 1907, and Executive Engineer, No. 2165 M., dated 22nd November 1907.

Order.—The Collector agrees with the Deputy Collector, Madura Division, and the Executive Engineer that the spring channel from the Vaigai to the Sellur tank should be kept up.

2. The Chairman of the Madura Municipality will be requested to take such steps in communication with the Deputy Collector as will safeguard the infiltration area from contamination by the opening up of the spring channel.

3. Having regard to the Executive Engineer's remarks that several of the spring channels from the Vaigai have, in recent years, been allowed to be silted up to the prejudice of irrigation during the dry weather, the Tahsildar, Madura, should, as suggested by the Executive Engineer, get together the ryots of the villages whose spring channels are silted up and get them to reopen the channels and keep them in repair. The Divisional officer is requested to see that this is done.

H. F. W. GILLMAN,
Collector.

Order—No. 137 I., dated 23rd March 1908.

In the circumstances explained in the correspondence read above, the Government are of opinion that the spring channel running along the north bank of the bed of the Vaigai river and referred to in paragraph 5 of the order read again at the head of these proceedings should not be closed, but should be kept open as a supply channel to the Sellur tank.

2. The Sanitary Commissioner urged the closure of this channel as it tended to scour and weaken the river bank. This could easily be obviated either by revetting the sides or by planting nanal and the Superintending Engineer will see that such protective work as may be necessary is carried out along with, and as a part of, the infiltration gallery scheme.

3. The Chairman of the Madura Municipality will take the necessary measures to keep the infiltration area free from contamination.

(True Extract.)

Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
,, Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.
,, Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.
,, Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
,, Local and Municipal Department.
,, Revenue Department.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(IRRIGATION BRANCH).

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 137 I., DATED 23RD MARCH 1908.

[SUBJECT.—*Closure of an irrigation channel near the headworks of the Madura water-works.*]

To the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, dated 4*th Nov.* 1907, *No.* 4302.
From the ,, VI ,, ,, 20*th Jan.* 1908 ,, 29-*C.E.*

Under Secretary—

In this office memorandum No. 4302, dated 4th November 1907, the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, was informed of the proposal of Government to construct a new experimental infiltration gallery on the down stream side of the existing filter beds of the Vaigai river at a cost of Rs. 9,610 in order to augment the water-supply to the town of Madura, and he was requested to offer remarks on the following suggestions made by the Sanitary Commissioner with regard to the above proposal :—

G.O., No. 2283 M., dated 11th November 1907.

(1) The channel running along the north bank of the river presumably cut for irrigation purposes should be closed.

(2) The river banks in places where they are weak should be revetted or protected by rush work.

He now forwards copies of the correspondence between the Executive Engineer, Madura division, and himself on the subject. The Executive Engineer states that the spring channel in question supplies the ayacut of the Sellur tank 186·2 acres in extent and that it has been blocked up for the reason that the Sellur people use their channel as a latrine. It is reported that the blocking up of the channel may prevent Kodai crop from being grown on the ayacut during the hot weather. Besides the tank being situated at the tail end of a channel may not get Periyár water until the end of July or not at all as happened in 1906–1907, whereas there was plenty of water flowing in the Vaigai during the hot weather. It is also reported that the land occupied by the channel is not valuable and is not fit for building sites. The Executive Engineer, therefore, suggests that if the few inhabitants of the neighbouring hamlet are prevented from using the channel as a latrine the portion of the filter beds, which it is desired to protect, can be kept free from contamination. The Collector agrees with the Executive Engineer that the supply channel to Sellur tank should be kept up and that the necessary steps should be taken to safeguard the infiltration area from contamination by the opening of the spring channel.

The Superintending Engineer agrees with the above views. Submitted that the Local and Municipal Department may be informed accordingly with reference to paragraph 5 of G.O., No. 2283 M., dated 11th November 1907.

B. GOPAL RAO.
28–1–08.

T. W. S. SMYTH.
29–1–08.

I cannot see what good closing the channel can do. A disused channel is just as likely to be used as a latrine as a used one. More likely, indeed, as when water is flowing, it cannot be used for that purpose. The Sanitary Commissioner's reason

was that it tended to scour and weaken the river bank. This has not been referred to by the Executive Engineer, but the possibility of this can be easily obviated and it is not considered necessary to call for a further report unless Local and Municipal wish it.

Page 5 of G.O., No. 2283 M., dated 11th November 1907.

H. E. CLERK.
29-1-08.

To Local and Municipal Department u.o.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

The closure of the irrigation channel running along the north bank of the river bed was *not* urged by the Sanitary Commissioner on Sanitary grounds. The Sanitary Commissioner thought that the channel tended to scour and weaken the river bank. Page 1 *supra* if, as stated by the Secretary, Irrigation Department, the possibility of the channel scouring and weakening the river bund can be easily obviated, this department has nothing more to say in the matter.

Vide his memorandum on pages 4 and 5 of G.O., No. 2283 M., dated 11th November 1907.

V.S.
4-2-08.

P. T. THARYAN.
5-2-08.

H. D. TAYLOR.
5-2-08.

To Public Works Department (Irrigation) u.o.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
(IRRIGATION BRANCH).

Under Secretary—

Draft order is submitted which, if approved, may be sent to Revenue, Local and Municipal and Public Works Departments for acceptance before issue.

B.G.R.
21-2-08.

S. DORAISAWMI AIYAR.
28-2-08.

T.W.S.S.
28-2-08.

H.E.C.
28-2-08.

To Revenue Department
To Local and Municipal Department } *u.o.*
To Public Works Department

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

To Under Secretary—

Attention is invited to the proceedings of the Collector of Madura, dated 30th November 1907, and the Executive Engineer's letter, dated 2nd January 1908 (paragraph 2).

2. The draft may be accepted in Revenue.

M.H.S.
7-3-08.

S.S.
9-3-08.

Accepted in Revenue.

D. T. CHADWICK.
9-3-08.

To Local and Municipal Department u.o.

C. A. SOUTER.
11-3-08.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

The draft order may be accepted in Local and Municipal.

V.S.
11-3-08.

P.T.T.
12-3-08.

Accepted.

H.D.T.
14-3-08.

To Public Works Department u.o.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Under Secretary—

The draft may be accepted.

P.K.S.
18—3—08.

Accepted.

A. G. ROMILLY.
18-3-08.

To Public Works Department (Irrigation) u.o.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(IRRIGATION BRANCH).

Under Secretary—

The draft order may issue.

S.D.
20-3-08.

[Issued as G.O., No. 137 I., dated 23rd March 1908.]

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

IRRIGATION BRANCH.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Abstract.- Madura Water supply.
Approving, with remarks, the proposals submitted by the Sanitary Engr for the construction at an estimated cost of Rs 9614 of an experimental infiltration gallery on the down stream side of the existing filter beds of the — & stating that further orders will issue in the P.W.D.

READ again the following

G.O. No. 2283 M, dated 11th November 1907.

Read also—

To the Supg. Engineer, VI Circle, No. 4302 d, 4th November 1907

From .. do .. do .. No. 29 C.E. d, 20th January 08

---

order. No 137 - dd 23.3.08.

In the circumstances explained in the correspondence read above, the Government are of opinion that the spring channel running along the north bank of the bed of the Vaigai river and referred to in para 5 of the Order[x] read again at the head of these proceedings should not be closed but should be kept open as a supply channel to the Sellur tank.

2. The Sanitary Commissioner urged the closure of this channel as it tended to scour and weaken the river bank. This could easily be obviated either by revetting the sides or by planting Nanal and the Supg Engineer will see that ~~the necessary~~ such protective work as may be necessary is carried out along with and as a part of the infiltration gallery scheme.

3. The Chairman of the Madura Municipality will take the necessary measures to keep

Issue 6

20/3/08.

Pro 20/3/08

the infiltration area free from contamination.

JMcS D.I. 28/2/08.

[illegible] 28/2/08 I

To

The Chief Engineer for Irrigation ✓
" Chief Engineer, P.W.D. ✓
" Supg. Engineer, VI Circle. ✓
" Examiner, P.W. Accounts. ✓
" Local & Municipal Department
" Revenue Department ✓

DESPATCHED
11 APR 1908

ordinary press.

Print Notes.

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